

P. M. F.

Boston, July 25, 1859.

My Dear Friend:

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Your letter, in reply to the one I sent to you ~~on day or two since~~ on Friday, is received. My answer to it shall be without delay.

In the first place, let me say, I marked my letter to you "private" on the envelope, simply to insure its ~~fast~~ opening and perusal by yourself; but not meaning that you should keep it from the eye of Stephen one moment, unless you preferred to do so. I will add, that I have no objection whatever to your letting any one read the letter - if you have none. Only I think the less publicity in regard to the present ^{whisper} ~~mis~~ understanding, ~~or~~ ~~reading~~ the better.

In the second place, let me say, I know not on what reasonable ground you have been insisting, (as you declare,) ever since the N. E. C., to hear from me. If you had any thing to complain of, respecting my criticism upon your course, at that Convention, ^{why did you not have} you had written the frankness ^{and} fidelity to let me know it, either by letter or ^{by} word of mouth; and how you can justify your self in such a procedure, while putting your grief into the ears of others, I do not understand. Why should I ^{have} written to you, with no impeachment or charge before me on your part? Unconscious of having done you any wrong, and feeling ~~justified by the circumstances in bestowing~~ ~~the rebuke I did,~~ it was not my duty to gather from the lips of others what you ^{then} refrained from coming to me, and take the initiative in this correspondence. Yet

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I have done so; ~~and~~, ^{but} instead of my magnanimity being appreciated, you insist that you were entitled ^{to} ~~to~~ hear from me, and hence your long silence! To me, this is a new view of obligations.

In the third place, let me say, the explanation you give why you left my house ~~with~~ ^{with} such precipitancy is ~~not~~ ^{hardly} satisfactory, because it was not then seven o'clock; because you heard my wife call me to speak to you, and, springing at the call, I was in a moment in the ~~stair~~ ^{entry} to give you my hand as usual, but you had vanished; and because, however hurried you may have been, you ^{certainly} were not so pressed for time that you could not stop ~~to~~

~~even to take leave of us say good-by - If you did not afterwards make a visit to Mr. Phillips, what else ^{ask} did I not tell Mrs. Garrison~~ could I infer but that you were in a highly excited state of mind? And why had I not a right to believe that when your "sober seconds" ^{such} thought came, you would regret ~~such~~ ^{such} haste, ^{now} and write me a letter, telling me in what manner, and to what extent, I had done you ^{felt} ~~any~~ ^{any} ~~serious~~ ^{serious} wrong? You ask - "Did I not tell Mrs. Garrison distinctly, that we were obliged to leave Boston at 8 o'clock, and that previous to that hour, we had got to breakfast, and to visit Alla's surgeon, & that every moment must be saved?" My wife has no recollection of any reference ^{being} made to seeing Alla's surgeon, but she remembers how Alla exclaimed, "My, mother!" in view of your sudden departure - and, as my breakfast was all ready, she wished you and Alla to partake of it, without any loss of time. It must have been a very "disagreeable" ^{one} "dream," as you admit, under which you were laboring at the time.

In the fourth place, let me say, the readiness with which you came to the conclusion that I meant to charge you with ^{a lack of integrity} ~~dishonesty~~ - after such an unbroken friendship as ours had been for twenty-five years, - was and is to me inexplicable; ~~it~~ ^{it} is the saddest part of it all. You say - "The audience understood you to accuse me of being fraudulent, and of ~~being~~ obtaining money under false pretences." What right have you to say this? You were not present. If you had been, you would have heard - what the audience heard - from my lips, when Mr. Burleigh, ~~to remove all possibility of misapprehension,~~ ^{to remove all possibility of misapprehension,} said to me, "You did not mean to accuse Mrs. Foster of ^{of it} ~~fraudulent~~ ^{intentional} fraud?" "Certainly not," I replied; while I still felt ^{regarded} that your course had been unwarrantable, and highly inconsistent. In ~~your~~ ^{my} ~~verbal~~ ^{criticism} upon my disclaimer ^{of any design of in-} ^{in 1857,} ~~of any design of in-~~ ^{of} ~~intentional~~ ^{intentional} "dishonesty" to you, "Can a person be dishonest without intention of being so? So, you still think I have been dishonest. ^{to this,} ~~not~~ ^{not} ~~intentionally so!"~~ - I can only ~~reply,~~ ^{reply,} that such verbal criticism and ^{such} forced construction seem to indicate a determination upon your part to place the worst possible ^{construction} ~~criticism~~ upon my language and motives. In such a state of mind, how ~~can~~ ^{can} I hope to ~~state~~ ^{state} the ~~any~~ ^{any} ~~thing~~ ^{thing} from your candor or friendly charity? ~~How~~ ^{How} I have never ~~said~~ ^{said} or doubted that you were justified in your own mind in getting me, for an ~~U.S. Treasury~~ ^{U.S. Treasury} ~~of land~~ ^{of land} ~~Republican~~ ^{Republican}, ~~as you did,~~ ^{as you did,} and ~~then~~ ^{then} ~~to~~ ^{to} ~~seek~~ ^{seek} ~~to~~ ^{to} ~~brand~~ ^{brand} ~~me~~ ^{me} ~~and~~ ^{and} ~~then~~ ^{then} ~~to~~ ^{to} ~~brand~~ ^{brand} ~~me~~ ^{me} ~~as~~ ^{as} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~worst~~ ^{worst} ~~and~~ ^{and} ~~most~~ ^{most} ~~dangerous~~ ^{dangerous} ~~ob-~~ ^{ob-} ~~stacles~~ ^{stacles} ~~in~~ ⁱⁿ ~~my~~ ^{my} ~~path;~~ ^{path;} yet I am persuaded such a procedure is utterly indefensible, and upon the face of it would be regarded "as charge," or before any impartial jury, as practically ~~an~~ ^{an} ~~infringement~~ ^{infringement}.

~~If I believe that,~~ That was what I said; but I expressly acquitted you of any "intentional" wrong-doing. Why persist in ignoring the fact that I did so? ~~That~~ You say that "mutual friends" requested me privately in the ante-room to make "retraction," and I "declined doing so." Retraction ^{implies an admitted wrong} is ~~not the same thing as explanation~~. I had nothing to retract; but, in answer to Stepler, and to the inquiry of Mr. Burleigh, I explained what I meant, and disclaimed any design to stain your integrity. I ~~do~~ cannot believe there was an unprejudiced person in the audience who left the hall that evening, who understood me as attacking your character — not one! Hence,

In the fifth place, let me say, your assertion, "It therefore remains true that I stand before the public accused by you of fraud. . . . This accusation is in the wings of the press, and is ready to meet me whenever I shall again attempt to serve the slave financially — that I am not a woman of integrity," is baseless, and the result, ~~of~~ ^{charitably} I believe, of a morbid condition of the mind. So far as the public at large are concerned, they know nothing of the matter, as no reference was made to it in the published proceedings of the ~~Anti-Slavery~~ Convention; and had it not been for Stepler dragging it before the meeting, and making a long, exaggerated, and ~~uncharitable~~ ^{injurious} speech upon it, ~~nothing would have~~ ~~been~~ the whole affair would have dropped ~~like~~ ~~any other~~ ~~sort of sight~~ ended with the Convention.

Finally, let me say, even if I
had ^{attenuated} so changed in spirit toward you
~~and~~ ^{so cruelly} assailed your integrity, (as you
seem ~~too~~ ^{too} willing to believe,) how does it follow,
if your zeal in the A. S. cause ^{is} ~~is~~ ^{as} ~~as~~ ^{is} what
it once ~~was~~ ^{was} - if that course is ^{still} paramount
in your ~~heart~~ ^{heart} ~~and~~ ^{affecting} ~~and~~ ^{over} ~~and~~ ^{all} ~~and~~ ^{per-}
sonal feelings, - that you cannot go West,
as you contemplated, and seek pecuniary
aid for the Western A. S. Society? You
(to unlike your former self!)
say, "Not only will the enemies, but the
friends of the cause, will distrust me."

Will they? Then "bide your time." Will
they? Why do you thus ^{harshly} impeach their dis-
cernment, and sense of justice, and per-
sonal knowledge of your character?
~~How~~ Attribute what you please to me
of personal influence, no one man can
long mislead or deceive ^{the true abolitionists} ~~them~~. Witness
"New Organization"! Witness "Papers and
Soyliss"! Witness all who have gone
astray, ^{to} ~~or~~ attempted to compromise the
course, ^{to} ~~to~~ perpetuate a pro-slavery church
or party! Your shrinking into nothing-
ness - your paralysis of effort - is un-
worthy of your earlier days, and indi-
cates that you are ^{in spirit} faint, as you have
been, through bodily infirmity, or some
mental hallucination! Be yourself, as
of old, shouting - "I am a soldier for the
war, whatever may befall!" - or wherever my
life is held against me!

If, after all, you are disposed
to make this a public matter in the columns

of the Liberator, ~~as~~ your course is plain.
Send me a letter, over your signature,
for publication, stating your ^{appreciation} ~~feelings~~ or be-
lief that ~~some may~~ ^{some may} suppose that I
meant to impeach your honesty at the
Convention, notwithstanding my explanation
at that time, and ~~requesting me to see~~
whether I fail to be sufficiently explicit
in reply to it. This you should have done
at the outset, if (as you say) it is a public,
and not a "private" affair. My own con-
viction is, that a molehill has been magni-
fied to a mountainous size, and that a
true regard for the cause ~~that~~ ^{which} is so dear
to us will dictate the omission of all pub-
lic reference to it. If you think otherwise,
I have suggested the method of disposing of
it, once for all, in the Liberator. Should you
prefer to have ^{Stephen} write the letter, it will be all the same
~~but~~ ^{but} I remain, in the bonds of
^{but deliberately} ^{reflect upon} ^{me} a precious friendship,

Yours, to break every yoke,

M. L. G.

I need not add, that we shall be glad
to see you all at our house at any time, and
that our latch-strings will always be out
to you and yours as hitherto. Especially
do we desire, both for our pleasure and her
convenience, that Alta will make our
house her home, during her visits to the city

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